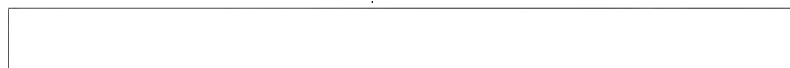


The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 30 September 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
30 SEPTEMBER 1968

1. Czechoslovakia -
Warsaw Pact

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2. World Communist
Conference

The preparatory committee meets today in Budapest with the chances better than even that the conference of world Communist parties will not be held in November. The Russians would like to have the conference, but they may find the wiser course is to postpone it in view of open opposition from important West European parties--notably the Italian and French--who have criticized the invasion of Czechoslovakia.

3. Peru

Belaunde and his vice president are unreconcilable in their bitter feud over the agreement between the government and the US-owned International Petroleum Company. Vice President Seoane--who is driving to succeed Belaunde in next June's election--feels the president gave away too much. The dispute irks the military and there are rumors of a coup. So far, however, the constitutionally-minded military are not ready to move.

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4. Ecuador

A lively political war is shaping up between Ecuador's aging President Velasco and Carlos Julio Arosemena who is scheming to recover the presidency he lost in 1963.

Velasco won a congressional skirmish over civil service appointments last week, but not before Arosemena had managed to get some highly dubious characters placed in key positions.

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5. Jerusalem

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6. Soviet Union

The Soviet birth rate dropped almost one third between 1960 and 1967. It has been below the US birth rate since 1963. The decline is likely to continue well into the next decade, and the Soviet Union may have trouble meeting its rising manpower requirements after 1980.

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7. Western Europe

Italy and the Benelux states are expected to go forward with their plans for closer economic links with Britain despite De Gaulle's latest rebuff. Kiesinger's unwillingness to really stand up to De Gaulle, however, will leave them uncertain on how much they can count on Bonn's support. The whole matter will be aired again in Rome on 21 and 22 October when the West European Union council meeting brings Britain and the Market members together.

* * *

De Gaulle told former Governor Scranton "there could be no program on European unity because other members of the Common Market insist on a close association with the US for defense."

8. West Germany

Scranton told the embassy in Bonn that he had found both Kiesinger and Brandt "positive" on the need for an increased German defense effort as a result of Czechoslovakia.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

- 1.) Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
- 2.) North Vietnamese Reflections of U S
Political Attitudes



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30 September 1968

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only

30 September 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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More on Front Office in Paris: The Vietnamese Communists have secured French permission to open a Front information office in Paris sometime after 5 October.

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Education:

no schools had re-opened in Hanoi or Haiphong for the fall term.

dispersed schools

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in the nearby countryside and provinces would again handle the children evacuated from these two cities. In the southern part of the country where the bombing continues, underground classes would again be held. According to the party newspaper, one in three North Vietnamese will attend schools of some kind this year.

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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

US Students Visit Front Mission in Havana: Radio Hanoi has publicized the recent visit of a Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) delegation to the National Liberation Front mission in Havana.

According to an English language international broadcast on 27 September, the SDS group expressed their support for "the valiant fight of the Vietnamese people against the US Government's aggression." Radio Hanoi called the delegation representatives of American students and said SDS welcomed the "big victories" achieved during the current Communist drive.

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